

# Newscasts

February 2010 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## **February 9 Chapter Meeting – Jim Bartelt Fly Fishing the Driftless Area: Presenting the Moving Fly**

Jim Bartelt – a proven “spring creek specialist” – will speak at our February 9 chapter meeting.

Teaching and fly fishing the spring creeks of southwest Wisconsin are two of Jim’s passions. Spring Creek Specialties (his guide service) is the outlet that he has been using for nearly two decades to meld these two loves. Though he is a retired teacher, he is clearly not done teaching. His new classroom has no walls, but is spring fed, and a driftless area runs through it.

At this meeting, Jim will talk about his proven active nymphing techniques to bring life to a dead drift, triggering strikes and cries of “Fish on!”

**If you’re serious about catching more trout, you won’t want to miss this meeting.** Jim is an expert on our home waters and will freely be offering his advice on how you can locate and catch more trout.

As usual, the meeting is at 7 p.m. but please join us earlier for dinner and a few stories before.

### **You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win**

Nobody won at our January meeting, thus the jackpot grew from \$40 to \$60. Please join us at our February meeting for a chance to win a \$60 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. You need only be present (and able to discern the calling of your own name) to win.

#### **Read on for:**

- ***Alaska Raffle ticket update!***
- ***News and photos from the Icebreaker!***
- ***Chapter award winners!***
- ***Rusty Dunn tackles a failed wet fly!***
- ***Our new Project Chairs!***

## **Chapter Elections in April You can make a difference!**

The annual spring elections offer an opportunity for Chapter members to serve on the Executive Board. This year we have numerous openings, as our president has served his two years and will be stepping aside. If the position is filled from within the current officer group or board, it could create any number of openings. Officers serve a one year term with a six year term limit.

Each year, three Directors are also elected and serve a two year term. The three board members with open seats are running for reelection.

Lastly, the State Delegate to the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited is a one year term up for election.

SWTU members further the Chapter mission in many ways and have made us one of the most active Chapters in the Midwest. A key to our continuing success is the regular change of leadership and the willingness of members to bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the Executive Board.

If are interested in serving in a position you need only contact any officer or board member on the Leadership Roster. (Officers are listed at the end of the newsletter).

Names are forwarded to the Nominating Committee, which assembles a slate of candidates for the April chapter meeting (April 13, this year). If there is no contest for a slot, the person is typically approved on a voice vote. If a slot is contested, the election is conducted via secret written ballot. In addition, nominations may be made from the floor.

The Leadership section of [www.swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org) has details on election procedures and the expectations for each position. If you have a nomination or further questions contact **Frank Kosmach** at [kosmach@chorus.net](mailto:kosmach@chorus.net).

## **Alaska Fishing Trip Raffle Enters the Homestretch**

### **Drawing Scheduled for March 9 Chapter Meeting (March Madness Auction)**

Tickets for the SWTU Alaska Fishing Trip Raffle remain available for purchase. The trip may be taken this summer (2010) or next summer (2011)

The raffle provides a marvelous opportunity for a trip of a lifetime while at the same time generating funds to support the Chapter's stream improvement program.

The winning raffle ticket will provide a 4 night and 5 day stay FOR TWO PEOPLE at Wilderness Place Lodge ([www.wildernessplacelodge.com](http://www.wildernessplacelodge.com)) located 80 air miles Northwest of Anchorage, Alaska on scenic Lake Creek.

The winning ticket will provide:

- 4 night, 5 day stay FOR TWO PEOPLE
- Lodging and meals
- Daily guided fishing trips
- All required gear (may bring own gear)
- Transportation between Anchorage and Wilderness Place Lodge
- Flexible date for 2010 or 2011

The winning ticket does not include:

- Transportation between home and Anchorage
- Overnight stay in Anchorage, if needed
- Liquor and gratuities at the lodge

No more than 200 raffle tickets will be sold for \$50 each. There is no limit on the number of tickets purchased by an individual.

All proceeds will be directed to support SWTU's trout stream improvement programs.

Tickets may be purchased by contacting Jordan Konisky at [Jordan.Konisky@gmail.com](mailto:Jordan.Konisky@gmail.com) and at the February 9 Chapter Meeting.

Fontana Sports (Westside) and Orvis (Greenway Station) also have raffle tickets for sale.

Please note that, by law, the Chapter must issue a 1099 form to the winner who must then pay taxes on the value of the trip (approximately \$6200) minus the cost of any tickets. For further information about the raffle and what the Wilderness Place Lodge offers, visit the Chapter Web site at [www.swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org). Questions should be directed to [Jordan.Konisky@gmail.com](mailto:Jordan.Konisky@gmail.com).

## **An Incredible Icebreaker**

Another Icebreaker in the books, and definitely one to remember! While attendance was slightly down, the tremendous slate of raffle items incited a flurry of ticket purchases and brought our total above the record \$8,000 mark once again. That is \$8,000 toward education and preservation programs for our precious cold water resource.

Our speakers – Bob Linsenman and Mike Miller – provided excellent, informative and inspiring presentations. Many notes were scribbled out during the talks and it's a good bet that many attendees are dusting off their streamer boxes as they think towards the opener.

We'll be doing this again next January, again in the comfortable confines of the Fitchburg Promega complex. If you have any suggestions for speakers or ideas on how to make the event even better, we'd be happy to hear them.

Words can't really do the event justice, so be sure to check out page XX for some great pictures!

## **Presidents Notes**

### **Thank you Icebreaker volunteers!**

By Dave Sanders, SWTU President

2010 is off to a great start with a record breaking profit from our 27<sup>th</sup> annual Icebreaker!

It wouldn't have been possible without the help of all of our volunteers, but a special thanks needs to go to **Brian Schwelling** for organizing the lunch and kitchen staff, and **Jim Kanvik** for working long and hard in soliciting the wonderful bucket raffle prizes that make the Icebreaker a great success.

Now is not the time to rest! We still need **help with manning our booth at the Fishing Expo** the last weekend of this month. Sign up at next week's meeting or contact Mark Rhinerson to pick a time slot.

Chapter elections (see page 1) are fast approaching – if you or someone you know has an interest in helping with the continued success of SWTU let our nominating committee know.

Remember to check our calendar at [swtu.org](http://swtu.org) often to keep up with our volunteer opportunities and Chapter events.

# Good Times and Good Friends at the 2009 Icebreaker



Checking out the mighty array of raffle items



Bob Linsenman and our MC, Topf Wells



Gathering 'round the vice in the tying room



Casting practice in the Stream Explorers Room



It's not every day you get to discuss insects with an actual entomologist



Some Stream Explorers tying up some real fish catchers

*Photos courtesy Jim Beecher.*

## 2010 Icebreaker Raffle and Silent Auction Donors

- John Gribb – Palette of Flies & Fish Cleaning Kit
- Jim Bartelt – Winston LXT 4 WT 3Pc Fly Rod and Ross Flow Center pin reel
- Robert Krewson – 100 Flies
- Fly Fisherman's Lair – Guided Trip
- Henry Haugley – Readers Fishing Glasses, Fish Sculpture, Fly Box
- Paul Douglas – Custom Bamboo Rod
- On The Creek Fly Shop – Guided Trip
- Harry Peterson – 9 Books
- Jim Beecher – Fly Earrings and Pins
- Greg Vodak – 9ft 8wt Fly Rod
- Steve Born – Brodin Dip net
- Todd Hanson – *Improved Trout Streams of Wisconsin*
- Milt Friend – Framed Photo
- William Flader – \$50 for prizes, Flies
- Driftless Gallery – Canvas Print of Black Earth Creek
- Ed Barnes – 2 Simms Wader Bag, Orvis Wader Bag , Watch, Fly Lines
- Curt Kirkhuff – Books
- Daniels Construction – Guided Trip
- Dave Fowler – 6'6" 3pc 4wt. Fly Rod
- John L. Bethke – Guided Trip
- Greg Ericson – Fly Tying Table
- Tom Mulford – 2 Dozen Flies and Case
- John & Sue Bleimehl – 4 wt 4pc 9ft Sage Fly Rod
- Dennis Presser – Print: The Fans of Royal Bridges by Sam Timm, Littleton Knife
- Jim Kanvik – 2 Dozen Flies
- Drew Kasel – Fly Box and Flies
- Rich Potter – Antique Fishing Gear
- Brian Schwellinger – Fly Rods and Reel
- Steve Robertson – 3 Fly Boxes
- Larry Meicher estate – 2 Gear Bags
- Fritz Seybold – Diorama of Flies, Flies
- Jim Hess – Print: Winter Retreat Canada Geese by Larry Fanning
- John Galligan – Book Series
- Badger Fly Fishers – Orvis Gear Bag
- Frank Kosmach – Flies, Wallet, Reel Case, Sunglasses Case, Fly Box
- Jordan Konisky – Orvis 8'6" Superfine Fullflex 5.5 Fly Rod
- Bill Pielsticker – Print Framed by Paul Douglas
- Mc Sports – Ice Fishing Poles
- Gerry Campbell – Fly Box and Flies, Book, Line, more
- Bob Selk – William Joseph Vest
- Leroy Ebert – Flies
- John Strauss – Fly Box and Flies
- Tech Enterprises – 2 Large Sets of Stain Removal Products
- Blackhawk Chapter – Rod, Reel & Line
- Fontana Sports – Simms Wading Shoes
- Kinni Creek Lodge & Outfitters – \$75 Certificate for Fly Fishing School

***Thank you all!!***

## SWTU has a friend in the Coliseum Bar

Just a friendly reminder about our generous arrangement with the Coliseum Bar, and a few other points and reminders of note:

- The Coliseum does not charge us a room fee, equipment fee, or any other fees – an arrangement they do not have with other groups and one that we would likely not get from other facilities.
- The room/servers were not ready for the January meeting because of a miscommunication, and not due to a failure of the staff at the Coliseum Bar.
- A tip is not included in your bill and you need to tip appropriately.

It was brought to our attention that a TUser at the bar made some loud comments, saying that since the changes there the service has been bad and the food terrible. A manager heard it (and perhaps it was even directed to the manager). We really don't want to get kicked out or have to start paying a fee because of this kind of needless venting.

It was further brought to our attention that the servers didn't get hardly any tips from our group, and that multiple people complained about the food prices being too high.

Anyone making such loud, disparaging comments in the future, or not tipping, or who has issues with the prices, will immediately be nominated to be on a "Meeting Location Assessment Task Force," tasked with finding a new place for SWTU to meet that has the following: great food for nearly nothing, excellent table service with no tipping required, a location equally convenient to both the east and west sides of town, and most importantly, it must please absolutely 100% of the membership. Everyone. This task force will meet weekly until such a location is successfully found.

Thank you.

## Welcome New Members

Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is pleased to announce the addition of the following new members to our ranks.

Max Hoeser	Sam Hoeser
Terry Schlick	Todd Norwood
Jason Koeppe	Douglas Boyes
Jesse Way	Timothy Groeneweg

We are honored to have you among us. Please join us for a Chapter meeting, and we will give you **FREE** raffle tickets, flies and "an offer you can't refuse" from some of our most experienced fisher-folk!

## Nash Williams Banquet and Awards

Guests at this years' Nash Williams Banquet were treated to live music, provided by fiddling experts Brian Schwellinger and Paul Mason, during the cocktail hour, the Coliseum Bar and Grill provided a great dinner with desert and as usual there was no lack of conversation and chapter camaraderie.

We had the honor of presenting two Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Gold Trout awards and a Conservation Award. **Steven and Barbra Parrell**

(*pictured at right*) were acknowledged with the Chapter's Conservation Award for participating in restoring a large section of Vermont Creek and granting an easement for public access to the stream that flows through their property. The \$178,000 Vermont Creek project was completed last fall by Dane County and SWTU.



Chapter member **Tina Murray** and **Michael Miller** of the Wisconsin Department Natural Resources each received a Golden Trout award, one of the Chapter's highest awards.

Tina (*pictured at right*) was acknowledged for her dedication and educational excellence by instilling a passion for environmental awareness and cold water resources in over 100 Project Green Teen graduates over the past six years at Shabazz City High School.



**Mike Miller** was honored for his years educating us about the relationship between aquatic life and water quality, plus adding some knowledge to our fishing bag of tricks along the way. Mike has gathered aquatic invertebrates on cold January sub zero mornings and during the dog days of August to expand the knowledge of cold water enthusiasts attending numerous educational events, seminars and meetings. He has given freely of his personal time to enhance our knowledge and understanding of our cold water treasurers.

We are proud to have the support of individuals like these – thank them the next time you see them!

## Fountains of Youth

*A look at classic flies that have withstood the test of time ... flies that remain "forever young"*

by Rusty Dunn, Copyright 2010

Think about your favorite dry fly. What makes it great? Maybe it's a quick and easy tie with inexpensive materials? Or, maybe it's durable and highly visible on the water? Floats like a cork? Imitates insects found everywhere? Indeed, these are traits of great flies. Perhaps the most important feature, however, is a fly having universal appeal to trout. Only the rarest of flies combine all of these traits, and you will be wise to fill your fly box with them. Al Troth's Elk Hair Caddis is one such fly. Mr. Troth merged key features of two ageless caddis imitations into a truly fine pattern, one that is a blend of simplicity, impressionism, and uncanny effectiveness.

Al Troth developed his Elk Hair Caddis in 1957 to imitate caddisflies of Pennsylvania's Loyalsock Creek, where he was a local school teacher. He moved to Dillon, Montana in the early 1970s and established a well-known guiding and fly tying business. Troth's Elk Hair Caddis pattern was first published in 1976 in Terry Hellekson's book *Popular Fly Patterns*. It is Al Troth's most famous pattern, and very few modern flies are as widely known. Its indistinct wing of elk hair tied Trude style suggests fluttering wings of an emerging or adult caddis. Its hollow elk hair floats the fly even in rough water. And, its palmered body hackle imitates legs and allows the fly to be twitched or skittered across the surface.

Troth designed the original Elk Hair Caddis as a wet fly, but it was a dismal failure because it floated too well. Troth couldn't sink the Elk Hair Caddis! He would jerk it underwater, but it popped right back to the surface because of the buoyant elk hair. Troth's very first Elk Hair Caddis taught him a valuable les-

son. He pulled the fly underwater, it rose like a cork to the surface, and a 20" brown struck immediately. This "Aha! moment" educated Troth about the buoyancy of elk hair and the value of imparting movement to caddis imitations. The Elk Hair Caddis has been a premier dry fly ever since. It is ready-made for the little twitches and jerks that excite trout everywhere to caddis emergers.

Troth's Elk Hair Caddis is related to a couple of venerable caddis classics. G.E.M. Skues' Little Red Sedge (1921) has a similar design, with a dubbed body, palmered hackle, and rib of fine gold wire. Wings of the Little Red Sedge are tied of landrail feathers, which are not at all buoyant and are not exactly a modern fly tying staple. The Elk Hair Caddis is also similar to a Bucktail Caddis, which originated in the Pacific Northwest and was very popular beginning in the 1950s. A Bucktail Caddis has a body of wool, a palmered hackle, a tail and wing of bucktail, and a collar of dry fly hackle at the head. It eventually shed the tail (caddis adults have no tails), and the bucktail wing was replaced by more buoyant deer body hair. Al Troth married the body of a Little Red Sedge with the buoyant wing of a Bucktail Caddis. He additionally formed a prominent head by flaring and trimming the butt ends of the elk hair parallel to the downward slanting eye of the hook.

The resulting fly is a modern classic. Tied in varying sizes and colors, Troth's Elk Hair Caddis imitates caddisflies of every variety, plus a substantial number of stoneflies, alderflies, and terrestrials. Omit the hackle, and the Elk Hair Caddis is virtually identical to an old English Hairwing Sedge. Add a tail of Antron and omit the hackle, and the result is Craig Mathews' X-Caddis. What are the lessons from all this evolution and adaptation? You just can't go wrong with a fly that sports a wing of elk or deer hair tied flat over the shank of a hook! Try one for yourself, and you'll likely have your own "Aha! moment".

### ----- Elk Hair Caddis -----

**Hook:** Dry fly, down eye, size to match the natural.

**Thread:** 8/0, color to match the natural.

**Body:** Dry fly dubbing mixed with some sparkly Antron; color to match the natural.

**Hackle:** Dry fly hackle, light or dark to match the natural. Trim a "notch" in the hackle along the top to allow the wing to nestle among the hackle barbs.

**Ribbing:** Fine gold wire.

**Wings:** Elk hair, light or dark to match the natural; trim the butt ends parallel to the angle of the hook eye.



## Meet the new Project Chairs

A warm welcome to Chris Denzin and Denis Presser, our new Project co-chairs!

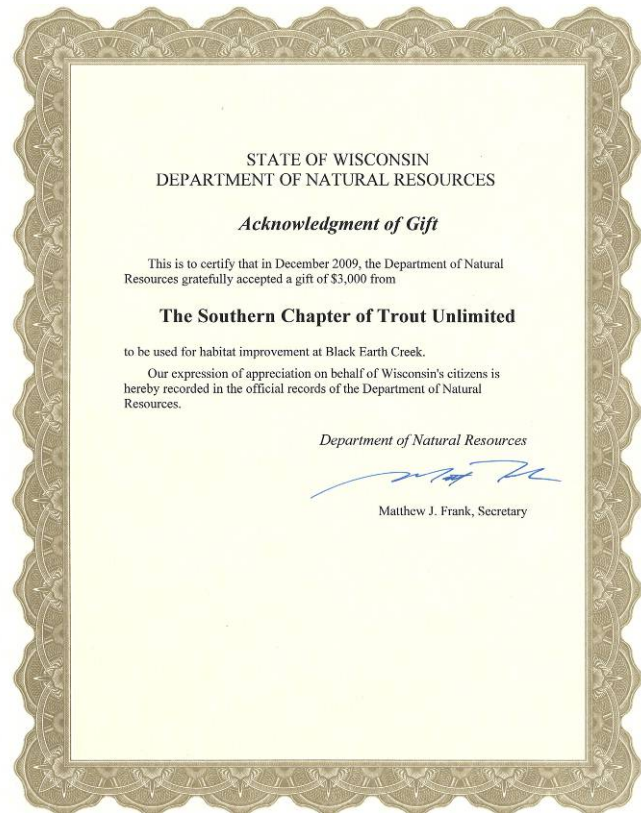
Stream work has long been a mainstay of our Chapter's activities and a path to leadership positions, as well. With membership approaching 700 and over 50 miles of improved trout water in our backyard, there is more than enough work to go around.

**Chris Denzin** will be coordinating the traditional Chapter stream workdays, working closely to plan them with the local DNR and land owners. Chris has the expertise and the desire to continue our strong tradition and workday ethics. Don't hesitate to sign up for the next workday opportunity.

**Dennis Presser** is a longtime Chapter member and if you recall he was the winner of the first Stream Keeper Rod award. Dennis will take on developing a county-wide stream maintenance program. He will be working with the County, DNR and other conservation groups to continue the pilot program we started last year. With the miles of improved and accessible trout streams continuing to increase, developing a maintenance program is essential to our continued success. The program will require an annual condition report of all the improved streams in the county. Maintenance issues can then be distributed to whatever group is best suited to correct the problem. Keep watch for your opportunity to help with this new program.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources presented our Chapter with this certificate recognizing our \$3,000 contribution toward important habitat work on Black Earth Creek below South Valley Road.

The contribution allowed the DNR to greatly improve this section of stream by installing sweepers made from locally recycled trees as well as some boulders.



### Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

President	Dave Sanders	(608) 843-7125	<a href="mailto:daveandcheri@charter.net">daveandcheri@charter.net</a>
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